GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4306
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2007
UNUTILIZED MANPOWER OF FARMERS
Prasad Shri Hari Kewal;Thummar Shri Virjibhai

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers of the country do not get work for most part of the year due to which the manpower of the country remains unutilized;

(b) whether the Government has conducted any study in this regard;

(c) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): Work opportunities for farmers depend on farming activities. Farming is characterized by busy and lean seasons. During busy season, farmers are employed. Longer is the busy season, more is the employment. During lean season, employment opportunity decreases.

(b) & (c): The employment pattern is reflected in the quinquennial survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). As per the 61st round of NSS, in rural India, the proportion of `all` male workers engaged in the agricultural activities declined gradually from 81 per cent in 1977-78 to 67 per cent in 2004-05. For `all` female workers, the decline was less i.e., from 88 per cent in 1977-78 to 83 per cent in 2004-05.

(d): The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has been notified on September 7, 2005 and the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) was launched on February 2, 2006. Union Budget 2007-08 announced the extension of the NREGS to 300 districts in the country. Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) is in place in the districts not covered by NREGS.